



North Head Sanctuary Foundation Inc

Custodians of North Head

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AGM Saturday 9 November 2019 2pm

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in Bandicoot Heaven, Building 20, at 2pm.

The speaker at our meeting will be retired Lieutenant Colonel Peter Sweeney RFD with a presentation 'The Submarine Attack on Sydney Harbour 31st May 1942'. The Japanese aim, in its advance south through the Pacific Ocean, was to sever Australia's contact with the United States. The air raids on Darwin and other locations across northern Australia, the attacks on shipping along the east coast of Australia and the attack by Japanese midget submarines in Sydney Harbour on 31st May 1942 were part of that strategy.

Peter is a military historian, a battlefield guide and a guest lecturer on cruises to the South Pacific. He completed a Master of Military History degree through the Australian Defence Force Academy Canberra in July last year. Everyone welcome.

Native Plant Nursery



Job done

Photo Jenny Wilson

Now that the days are warmer the shade cloth cover has been put on our igloo to stop the plants getting too hot.

You are welcome to join us on any Tuesday or Friday morning between 8am and 12noon to help with the planting, weed removal or maintenance.

For more details email northhead@fastmail.com.au

Or just turn up and ask for Jenny, phone 0414735350.

Education Room - Bandicoot Heaven

Our community education room is open 10am to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays in Building 20. Call in and say hello and have a look at our displays.

Maybe you would like to learn about volunteering in our education room. Ask one of our volunteers or contact Judy Lambert at tswombat@iinet.net.au

Morning tea with Dr Viyanna Leo

Tuesday 19 November 2019 10.30am, at the lean to behind Bandicoot Heaven, Building 20 for morning tea. Then Dr. Viyanna Leo, Wildlife Ecologist, North Head Sanctuary from Australian Wildlife Conservancy will be giving a talk and answering questions about the native Fauna on site and the reintroductions.

Manly's 26th Ocean Care Day is expanding.

This year Northern Beaches Council will run a series of events stretching from Palm Beach to Manly. For details of the week-long Ocean Festival celebration of our Oceans, please go to:

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/whats-on/ocean-festival>

The Ocean Festival activities will culminate in the annual Ocean Care Day displays and activities, being held on the Ocean Beach walkway on Sunday 1 December.

We will need help in manning our stall. If you can help by volunteering for a part of the day, please contact Kath Pearce, at kmpearce@yahoo.com

Our volunteers staffing our stall would welcome a visit while you are out enjoying the day. Call by for a chat, see our displays and consider becoming one of our volunteers.

North Head Bird Photo by Robyn Missen



Spurwing Plover with chicks taken about 28 September at North Fort. They had four babies and as at 18 October, they still had four chicks running around pecking the ground.

Unfortunately, the orange flower seen in the photo is a weed - Scarlet pimpernel. It's an annual herb capable of producing seeds within a week of germination, so it is hard to eradicate. It's one of the weeds that Nursery volunteers remove from our plantings.

Living Under Quarantine Lock-Down.

Dr_Ian_Lavering

While visitors to the Q-Station can now listen to a range of historic accounts and experiences of people who were quarantined after arrival on a ship or aeroplane, not many accounts are available from people who had to endure the experience inside the station, as well as times in between, when the facility had to be ready for Quarantine use with minimal warning. My own experience was as a staff family member from 1963-75 while my father was the resident Officer in Charge. For two brief periods, during my university holidays, I was employed to fill in for staff members who were on leave, or to allow them to undertake quarantine duties required during a major emergency (details below).

As you might guess, having the station (antiquated as some parts were) in a constant state of readiness involved a degree of constant tension. Everyday chores had to be attended to while the grounds had to be maintained, security checked, and specific risks avoided (e.g. bush fire risk was minimised by mowing between building complexes). During quarantine, the emphasis switched to operating the support and infrastructure necessary for accommodation and medical integrity e.g. the boiler house and steam laundry were specially required for accommodation of large groups. But not all staff were skilled or qualified to operate all machinery when required. As such, the need for staff with the right mix of skills and expertise were matters of ongoing concern.

My observations (from outside the quarantine zone) of full quarantine conditions were when ships with crew members who displayed symptoms of smallpox were placed under full 'lock-down' (1967 and 1973) until pathology revealed the true condition was treatable with antibiotics. Otherwise the November 1972 cholera cases developed on a Qantas flight from Bahrain provided the most memorable experience, although in this case 'full-lock-down' was not required as the disease was acquired from contaminated water mixed with orange juice.

In both cases, having more than 6-8 people accommodated at one time required the use of the steam laundry to wash the large volume of household linen and towels. That meant that during daytime the steam boiler had to be operational to produce steam for hot water and the drying process. Both the foreman and the mechanic were required to hold a current steam boiler and engine operator's qualification and one had to be on duty in the boiler room at all times of operation. This left remaining staff to assist in all other aspects of quarantine operations.

The most obvious feature of full quarantine was the closing of the double gates ('buffer zone') on the main access road behind the Gatehouse and the 'Receiving Shed' (Q-Station Reception) was used as the only means of supply – foodstuffs and goods could come in but nothing would exit the station. My father would move from our residence (Gatehouse) and reside in the small unit in

the upper storey of the Office Building (A1) until Quarantine was lifted. All other staff and their families would be within the Quarantine zone so no school or external travel for the full quarantine period.

The 1974-5 Cyclone Tracy evacuation operation involved use of the Q-station as an emergency accommodation facility with no necessity for normal security. Instead all staff were required for duty to ensure all kitchens and bathrooms were fully operational with all hygiene needs met, and all rooms had access to linen. This also was the last period when the steam laundry was run at full capacity which was where I spent a period (early 1975) until the Darwin evacuees were relocated with relatives or long-term accommodation was arranged.

Curiously, our family had been based at the Darwin Quarantine Station for 4 years prior to our transfer to North Head in 1963. Our experience at Darwin Quarantine was a mixed one, by comparison, as many Darwin residents were very critical of the health risk we were perceived to represent to them, as our nearest neighbours were patients within the East Arm Leprosarium. Our daily travel to primary school involved travel past this facility; a place very few Darwin residents were willing to tolerate, let alone having their children mix with those who lived next to some 200 leprosy sufferers. More details on this issue in another forum, perhaps.

The extent of the Darwin public hostility to Darwin Q-station staff is now a matter of reflection but, like our North Head days, we weren't exactly popular when a Quarantine period was proclaimed, even when it was lifted there was a sense of apprehension that we were going to cause an outbreak of some disease from the Quarantine graveyards. So, ones' Manly-based friends were few and far between. It was yet another reason why I spent the University term (1971-74) living in residential college at Kensington.



Photo; heading back to NSW university in early-1972 from the Quarantine Gatehouse backyard (Feb 1972) with all the textbooks and suitcase in the trailer parked in the driveway (now the Q-station

parking lot). The Receiving Shed (Q-station Reception Office) is visible in the background. If only I were now as lean and follicularly-endowed as this photo shows.